



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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News

For immediate release
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Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017

South Kitsap fatality crash

PORT ORCHARD, Wash. -- Kitsap County Sheriff's traffic deputies are investigating a single-vehicle fatality crash that occurred Monday evening.

Location: 5100 block of SE Burley Olalla Road, between Shady Glen Avenue SE and Fagerud Road SE, in the Olalla area of South Kitsap.

Time & date: reported at 5:14 p.m., Monday, Jan. 2, 2017.

Responding agencies:

- Patrol and traffic deputies from Kitsap County Sheriff's Office.
- Engine and medic units from South Kitsap Fire and Rescue (SKFR).
- Troopers from Washington State Patrol.

Involved:

Vehicle: 2003 Ford Ranger pick-up truck.

Driver: identified by the Kitsap County Coroner's Office as Stephen Anthony DeMark, age 74, a resident of Tacoma. Pronounced deceased at the scene by SKFR medics.

No other vehicles or persons were involved.

Synopsis: Although the investigation is in its early stages, a preliminary report indicates the Ford Ranger truck was traveling eastbound on SE Burley Olalla Road when it entered a curve to the left. The driver, however, continued straight ahead onto the roadway eastbound roadway shoulder, then overcorrected and the truck crossed both lanes of travel onto the westbound roadway shoulder.

The driver overcorrected again and the truck moved across both lanes to the eastbound shoulder and struck a guardrail.

The truck continued traveling eastbound for approximately 200 feet while in contact with the guardrail. The vehicle next crossed a driveway and continued up an embankment where it struck a tree.



The Ford Ranger overturned and the vehicle's momentum came to a stop with the truck laying on the driver's side in the eastbound lane of travel and shoulder.

SKFR crews had to use hydraulic emergency tools to remove the roof of the truck to gain access to the interior of the cab and extricate the driver. The man was unresponsive and pronounced deceased by medics.

Investigators report that vehicle speed is not an apparent causing factor in this crash. The driver, however, was not utilizing the truck's seatbelt safety system.

It's unknown if alcoholic intoxicants or narcotics were factors in the cause the collision. That will be determined later in the investigation when laboratory toxicology tests are completed.

The county's forensic pathologist will conduct an autopsy of the driver, scheduled for Wednesday. The Kitsap County Coroner will make a determination as to cause and manner of death.

That portion of SE Burley Olalla Road encompassing the collision scene was closed to thru traffic for approximately 2.5 hours for the investigation.

Persons with information about this crash are asked to contact Deputy Dave Green, sheriff's traffic unit, at (360) 337-4634.

Reference: Kitsap County Sheriff's Office case report **K17-000045**.

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